

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The integration of gateway services such as, but not limited to, one or none of  
5 Network Address Translation (NAT), firewalls, proxies, tunneling, and/or Virtual Private  
Networking (VPN) into RF cable devices such as, but not limited to, cable modems and/or  
set-top boxes advantageously provides additional capabilities for accessing the internet over  
an RF cable connection.